

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture of *Bifidobacterium longum* FERM BP-7787 having the following ~~mycological~~ characteristics:

(1) survival rate of 50% or higher, after attaining pH 4.4 to 4.6 in a milk base medium, and storing at 10°C for two weeks; and

(2) survival rate of 10% or higher in the case of storing in artificial gastric juice of pH 3.0 at 37°C for two hours.

2-4. Canceled.